

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR EAID AO CG ZA MZ DA

SUBJ: RECENT DANISH THINKING AND PLANS REGARDING ASSISTANCE TO
SOUTHERN AFRICA

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REF: COPENHAGEN 0611 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: MFA PRESENT THINKING ON ASSISTANCE TO SOUTHERN AFRICA IS BASED ON THE PREMISE THAT THE WEST SHOULD NOT TURN ITS BACK ON ANGOLA AND THEREBY INCREASE THE MPLA'S DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS. THE WORKING LEVEL OF THE MFA--AND ALMOST CERTAINLY FONMIN K.B. ANDERSEN HIMSELF--APPEARS TO BE CONCLUDING THT EXISTING LEVELS OF DANISH AID TO ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA ARE RELATIVELY HIGH AND THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE FOR "SOUTHERN AFRICA" WILL BE RESERVED FOR ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE. IT IS NOT NOW CLEAR HOW PARLIAMENT WILL RECEIVE A REQUEST FOR AID TO ANGOLA AS PART OF THE NEW DANISH AID BUDGET IF CUBAN FORCES ARE STILL IN THAT COUNTRY. END SUMMARY.

1) IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH THE HEAD OF THE THIRD OFFICE OF MFA'S POLITICAL DIVISION, BENT HAAKONSEN SET OUT FOR POLCOUNS CURRENT DANISH THINKING CONCERNING ANGOLA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA. THIS THINKING IS BASED ON THE PREMISE THAT THE WEST SHOULD NOT TURN ITS BACK ON THE MPLA GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA NOR SHOULD IT CAUSE THIS GOVERNMENT TO FEEL PENALIZED AND ISOLATED. SUCH A FEELING, ACCORDING TO HAAKONSEN, COULD FORTIFY MPLA DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS.

2) FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN, CONSEQUENTLY, WANTS TO AVOID GIVING THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT THE IMPRESSION THAT WESTERN NATIONS ARE STEPPING UP AID ESPECIALLY TO ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA IN ORDER TO "USE" THEM AGAINST ANGOLA. THE DANES THEREFORE WOULD FAVOR WESTERN INCREASES IN ASSISTANCE TO ALL OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. BY THIS, IS MEANT ZAIRE, ZAMBIA, ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE.

3) HAAKONSEN RECALLED THAT ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA ARE ALREADY PRIORITY AID TARGETS FOR THE DANES WHICH RANK JUST BELOW TANZANIA. ACCORDING TO HAAKONSEN, THE HOSPITAL THE DANES ARE UNDERWRITING IN ZARE IS, IN FACT, THE LARGEST SINGLE DANISH ASSISTANCE PROJECT IN AFRICA. HE WENT ON TO OBSERVE THAT, GIVEN THE RELATIVE WEALTH OF BOTH ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA, IN THE OVEALL AFRICAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTEXT, PERHAPS THE DANES WERE GIVING TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO THESE COUNTRIES.

4) TURNING SPECIFICALLY TO DANISH AID (DANIDA) PLANS FOR ANGOLA, HAAKONSEN SAID THE PARLIAMENTARY FINANCE COMMITTEE HAD AGREED TO PROVIDE DKR 400,000 (APPROX. US \$67,000) REQUESTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLA. THIS

MONEY WILL BE USED TO FINANCE THREE DANISH MEDICAL TEAMS. FURTHERMORE, AT THE TIME DANISH ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLA WAS SUSPENDED LAST NOVEMBER, ABOUT DKR 1.3 MILLION (APPROX. US \$217,000) REMAINED EARMARKED FOR ANGOLA AND UNSPENT FROM THE SO-CALLED "APARTHEID FUND". THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS ALSO AGREED TO UNFREEZE THIS AMOUNT WHICH WILL BE USED PRIMARILY FOR TRANSPORT AND FOOD.

5) THE DANISH AID BUDGET FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING APRIL 1 WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE ABOUT DKR 20 MILLION (APPROX. US\$ 3.3 MILLION) FOR ANGOLA. THIS IS THE AMOUNT THAT IS ALSO BEING SET ASIDE FOR MOZAMBIQUE. HAAKONSEN SAID THAT HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC OVER THE RAPIDITY WITH WHICH THESE SUMS COULD BE DRAWN DOWN AND COMMENTED THAT THE DANES HAVE HAD CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN IDENTIFYING VIALBE AID PROJECTS IN MOZAMBIQUE.

6) HE CONCLUDED BY OBSERVING THAT, UNLIKE MOZAMBIQUE, THERE WAS SUBSTANTIAL DANISH COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN ANGOLA AND SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION OPPORTUNITIES AT WHICH THE LARGE DANISH FIRM, F.L. SCHMIDT & CO., WAS LOOKING.

7) COMMENT: SPOKESMEN FOR THE PRINCIPAL PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION PARTY, THE LIBERALS, HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY ARE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC OVER RESUMPTION OF AID TO ANGOLA. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE LIBERALS AND THEIR ALLIES ON THE FINANCE COMMITTEE CONCURRED IN THE ACTIONS NOTED IN PARAGRAPH 4, ABOVE. WHAT REMAINS UNCERTAIN IS HOW THE LIBERALS WILL REACT TO A LINE-ITEM FOR ANGOLA IN NEXT YEAR'S DANISH BUDGET IF CUBAN FORCES REMAIN IN THAT COUNTRY. BOTH THE GOVERNING SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND THE LIBERALS WILL HAVE TO PLAY AID TO ANGOLA IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTEXT OF THE CONSIDERABLY MORE IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES REMAINING BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES ON OVERALL SPENDING LEVELS.
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